

Annual Report



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About Us

Elevating Success UK is a training and personal development company based in South London with a reach that extends across the capital. Established in November 2007, the organisation has charitable status and works with approximately 1400 individuals per year, consisting of children, young people and adults.

Our aim is to support individuals to achieve their full potential. Today we have six delivery areas: Employability Skills, Rehabilitating Offenders, Personal Development, Holiday Programmes, Community Development and Event Management.

Our training is free at the point of access with funding sources from a variety of organisations including local and central government, larger charities and a number of social housing providers who see the benefit of empowering their tenants to become economically independent.

Our holiday programmes run every half-term and were created in response to consultations with schools that revealed some children were not exposed to opportunities that could enhance their life outcomes, be it chances to socialise in a safe environment, or experience new activities that challenge them. In the summer of 2017, we ran five holiday programmes alone and provided activities for over 325 young people.

Our work with offending communities has seen us work with Lewisham Youth Offending Services for six years and the London CRC (formerly Probation) for five. Our aim is to engage, educate and support individuals to make life choices that will see them end a cycle of offending. These programmes focus on changing behaviour, as well as providing qualifications that enhance employment prospects.

In the last five years, we have launched two youth conferences, event managed seven and attracted over 3,000 young people, providing guidance and support on career opportunities as voluntary community roles.

In recent years, we have found funds increasingly scarce for third sector organisations, which has necessitated more partnership as collaboration becomes a way of ensuring that scarce funding resources service the many rather than the few. As such, we are always looking for new organisations to partner with to deliver joint services to the local community. In recent years, we have worked with larger organisations such as Ernst & Young and Travis Perkins.



Partners have provided a number of different services to our clients, whether this is financial backing, offering work placements/internships, or merely referring candidates to our many programmes. What we have in common has been the shared core values of helping those in need.

To discuss how you can contribute to our vision please contact us on: 020 7993 8411 and ask for

Aims and Objectives

Aims

Elevating Success UK aims to provide a professional, caring, creative and mutually respectful training service to all clientele.

We pride ourselves on being able to offer professional and dependable services at all times.

We continually seek to promote and disseminate good practice.

Finally, we aim to provide assistance and partnership support to regenerate priority areas and develop sustainable communities.



Objectives

To deliver training and educational programmes that are recognised as high quality, achieve the best value for money in all activities; develop links with businesses so that disadvantaged people have the chance to try activities and projects appropriately.

Where achievable, programmes that we deliver are free at the point of access in recognition of the fact that our end users are drawn from areas of high deprivation, be they children, teenagers, young adults or senior citizens. We will champion partnership working and have nurtured a number of valuable business relationships, mainly due to our fantastic team of employees and volunteers who share our vision and are committed to delivering our services to a very high standard.

Our multiple funding streams include housing associations, local authorities, youth offending and probation services, training providers, as well as larger charities whose common aim is to build community participation.

CEO and Chairperson Reports

Andrew Brown CEO of Elevating Success UK

Our ninth year of trading has possibly been our toughest so far. With many mergers and funding cuts, we've found this year difficult financially and have had to dip into our reserves to meet the additional expenditure. However, we have also been able to deliver numerous, empowering projects, keeping to the high standard we set ourselves. We had another successful year, working with 1.500 people, with over 600 of these attending the Lewisham Youth Conference 2017. We were also able to continue working with existing funders such as CCHA, Lewisham Homes and attract brand new sponsors including Travis Perkins.

We have fully established ourselves in Brockley, our new base of operations, and have continued to offer our vast array of programmes, including a new offering - Pathway to Work in Catering and Hospitality - which became our Third accredited course. It was also a privilege to be nominated and shortlisted for the National Diversity Awards. This was perhaps the highlight of the year. Our nomination came towards the end of the voting process and in just under two weeks we received over 200 votes with people leaving positive comments about Elevating Success UK regarding the impact and changes to people's lives we have made.

One comment that stood out was: "They help the people who need it most find the skills they require most, and give them opportunities they can get the most out of." This quote epitomises the aim of our charity.

I am looking forward to 2017/2018 and my vision is to move Elevating Success UK to another level. We continue exploring new horizons on our journey to various accomplishments. Over the course of the year we will be aiming for the Bronze Quality Mark with London

Youth and to gain the recognition as an AQA Host Centre. These achievements would raise Elevating Success UK's status,

Before I end, I would like to thank my ever-present staff, Patricia Stevenson and Ben Joyce, for all their hard work throughout the year. Also to our many volunteers, including Millie, John, Nadine, Angela, Julie and Sandy, who have provided extraordinary support to our charity.

Finally, a huge thank you to our funders and ever-growing supporters: CCHA, AmicusHorizon, London Community Foundation, JobCentre Plus, London & Quadrant, Lewisham Homes and Lewisham Youth First.

Here's to a successful year past, and an even better one ahead.

Key Figures and Facts for 2016/17

- From April 2016 to March 2017, 48 individuals received an accredited qualification through two of our programmes -Pathway to Work in Construction and Pathway to Work in Catering & Hospitality
- Worked with over 1,500 individuals over the 12-month period
- Secured financial backing from 48 funders/ supporters across the financial year
- Helped support 47 people into sustainable employment
- Provided volunteering opportunities for 56 people

Vanessa Clarke Chairperson , Board of Trustees

We are very pleased to present the annual report of Elevating Success UK for the financial year ending 31st March 2017:

I am happy to say that as a trustee board, we have retained personnel and been able to welcome a new member to the team: Angela Nelson will become a fully-recognised trustee in the 2017/18 financial year.

This year we have seen a drop in our total turnover. Fortunately, this was expected and plans and strategies were put in place to mitigate these changes. Looking ahead, I am happy to state that 2017/18 is looking good and we can already see an increase in sales.

The majority of our income still comes from Housing Associations, JobCentre Plus and grant funding organisations such as the London Community Foundation. Our Employability Programmes continue to receive great support and in 2016 we were able get 47 people into employment.

Once again, we are indebted to our incredible team of staff, volunteers and supporters, whose generous donations of time and money are always welcomed and appreciated.

This year, we ran our first Fundraising Campaigns with SpaceHive and Local Giving, centred on the Lewisham Youth Conference, and were pleasantly surprised with the amount that was pledged and donated.

Next year I'd like to be able to report we've grown our base of regular supporters and that will be the focus going forward.

We are looking forward to positively impacting many more lives in the coming year.

Our Staff & Volunteers

Meet our dedicated team of workers

Patricia Stevenson Programme Director

Having worked at the same organisation for nine years one might be forgiven for thinking that things must have become pretty staid. But the reality is that changes in Government policy at a central and local level - as well as Globalisation - shape what happens on our doorstep to the extent that the deprivation Elevating Success seeks to alleviate has morphed into a new shape.

For instance, we support more people on zero hours contracts than ever before. These new challenges keep me motivated and invigorated as I ask the question: How can my contribution, and that of the team, have a positive impact in shaping the fairer society I want to live in? contribution can make a positive impact and shape the kind of society I would like to live in.

Millie Thompson Volunteer

Millie has been a volunteer with Elevating Success UK for over a year now.

Working closely with our clients, both on our courses and on a one-to-one basis, Millie has become a specialist at helping our clients seek work.

Her dedication knows no bounds, and this has even extended to accompanying clients to interviews. We are privileged to have a volunteer like Millie, who goes above and beyond her duties to ensure our clients are properly looked after.



Ben Joyce Senior Administrator

I have recently completed my sixth year with Elevating Success UK and can safely say this has been the most challenging year to date.

We have had to integrate into a new area and overcome many challenges. It is with great pride and pleasure that I can say we have achieved our goals, settled nicely into Brockley, and are well on our way to building a rapport with the local community.

I am proud to be a part of the Elevating Success UK family and look forward to many more successful years with the company.

Nadine Banton Volunteer

Nadine was signposted to ES because of her passion for putting on events. She initially joined our Business Enterprise Programme for young mothers and progressed to working on our events.

During that time she took responsibility for our social media accounts, and was charged with generating exposure for the company and our programmes.

Although her time with us has been short thus far, we see big things in the future for Nadine and look forward to working with her for some time.

National Diversity Awards

In September 2016, Elevating Success was nominated for a National Diversity Award in the category of Community Organisation Award for Age. It was a terrific accolade to receive and subsequently we made the shortlist. While we didn't bag the award on the night, the experience left us anything but empty-handed.

The anonymous, online voting campaign allowed us to review the many testimonies from people and organsiations in support of our nomination. The outpouring of sentiments that expressed how the charity had touched the lives of many provided a moment for reflection and a reminder of why we're passionate about the work we do. We've shared a few of those comments here and we hope you'll agree that it's not bad for a small South East London charity.

And once again, a big thank you to everyone that voted!

Quotes

Young people today are easy targets for being on the wrong side of the law. Services like 'Elevating Success' provide exactly what is necessary to make these young

people make a positive impact in society. It allows young people life opportuni-

"Elevating Success is a community organisation in the truest sense of the word.



ties and we need more of this."

"Elevating Success has helped so many young people and has made us realise that life is not a joke and we should take education seriously and that we always have a choice in what we want to do and it's only ourselves that can make that decision. But we can still have fun along the way."

It offers young people the opportunity to experience new things, challenge themselves, develop and grow. Its innovative programmes not only work with young people, but also reach out to the wider community. It understands that community means family, which is why it's a much-needed part our community

New Partnerships

Clyde Early Childhood Centre

When Elevating Success UK moved into its Brockley base in September 2015 it was to share the facilities with Clyde Early Childhood Centre. The latter's offering includes a nursery, stay-and-play, as well as activities like baby massage.

However, it is with respect to its early intervention work, as well as that targeted at troubled families that Elevating Success UK has seen most synergies. In Q2 of 2016 Elevating Success UK CEO, Andrew Brown, was invited to become a trustee of Clyde and happily took up the mantle.

Since 2016 we have seen bi-directional referrals between the agencies. Mothers seeking employment, or who have teenage children requiring mentoring, have been referred to Elevating Success and conversely Elevating Success has referred its course attendees to Clyde who express a need for support parenting.

Andrew says of his trustee role: "I felt I could provide support in the area of fundraising and community engagement. It's early days, but so far it would seem that the challenges of working with a young cohort is no different to that working with older people."

We anticipate that the relationship will grow stronger over the coming year thereby benefiting the immediate community that both organisations serve.



Programme Reviews

Lewisham Youth Conference 2017

Seeking to empower and inspire each individual

602











Information stalls Volunteers

Our third annual Lewisham Youth Conference was our biggest and best yet, and was attended by over 600 people. There were a variety of workshops to participate in, along with 38 information stalls promoting activities and opportunities, followed by out talent section.

The Youth Conference, hosted by White Yardie, aimed to empower and inspire local young people by providing access to information and guidance from local organisations.

For the third year in a row the event was attended by Vicky Foxcroft (MP), the Lewisham Young Mayor's Team, and 38 local organisations.

We worked with many partners including; Lewisham Homes, AmicusHorizon, Axis Foundation, CCHA, London & Quadrant, Travis Perkins, and Youth First. Each contributed not only financially, but by providing man-power for the event.

However, for the first time we conducted fundraising for the event using a website called Local Giving. This proved successful and a method of raising funds we will explore further going forward.



Leona, aged 16, said:

"This event has inspired me to

Jack, aged 14 said:

"I really like these events. I have been





AmicusHorizon





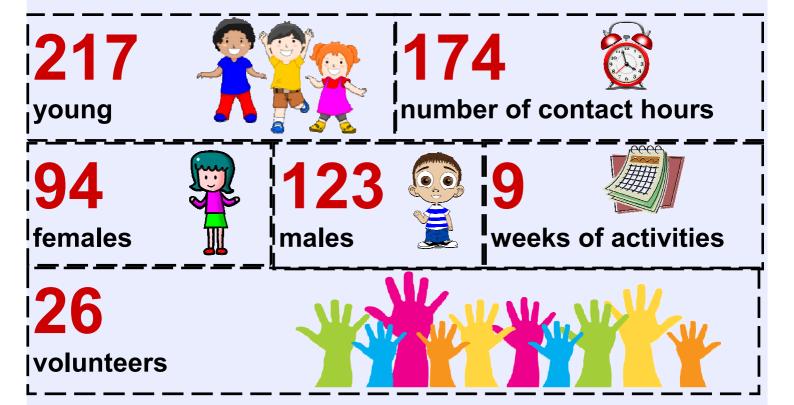






Grove Park Holiday Programme

Providing fun activities for young people during every school holiday



Our Grove Park Holiday Programme has been running since 2010 and continues to go from strength to strength.

In the last year we delivered five programmes amounting to nine weeks of activities.

217 young people took part in activities ranging from Arts & Crafts, Sports, Cooking, Music, Drama, Photography and Film-Making as well as the opportunity to visit a number of fun locations during the many offsite excursions we offered. These included a trip to Frylands Wood, Olympic Park, and Science Museum.

Our partnerships with Youth First (formerly Lewisham Youth Services) and London & Quadrant continues to flourish, and we all combined to once again offer fantastic activities for young people living in Lewisham and surrounding boroughs.





L&Q



Business Enterprise Programme

Creating opportunities for young mothers to set up their own business

10 attendees initially



4 more people joined at end of six weeks

3 Businesses Launched



The Business Enterprise Programme, delivered in partnership with London & Quadrant, was a course designed to assist unemployed mothers set up their own businesses. Some had already started this process and, whether it was time constraints, financial difficulty, or a lack of knowledge, they had reached a barrier in their progress. Our intervention supported them to move forward and addressed the needs of complete novices.

The programme was so successful that at the end of the six weeks, we were asked by the funder L&Q to lengthen the programme by a further period in order to continue working with the cohort, and also welcome new sign-ups, of which there were four.

On completion of the course, three individuals were ready to launch, with a further two almost finalised.



L&Q

Pathway to Employment

Providing environments for people to gain employment and new skills



6 1 people engaged



22 I into employment



33OCN Accreditations



CSCS Test passes



received their provisional licenses

Driving Theory Test passes

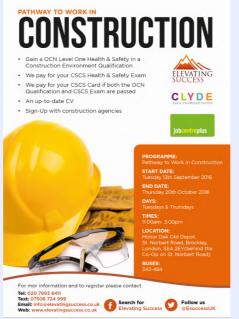
Over a 12-month period, we ran a project in partnership with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Catford and Forest Hill JCPs to secure employment for at least 15 individuals.

Over the course of the year, we delivered seven programmes consisting of Pathway to Work in Construction, On The Road: Driving Theory Programme, and Pathway to Work in Catering & Hospitality.

JCP has consistently engaged with Elevating Success UK over the last three years to deliver programmes on its behalf because we are able to meet their employment targets. On this occasion we were expected to get 25% of the cohort into employment, but exceeded that target by 6% and achieved an employment success of one in three candidates.

In addition to employment success, over 50% of learners gained a qualification, such as passing their driving theory test or obtaining their Green CSCS Card.









Programmes
Delivered Between April
2016 & March
2017









Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund



THE DISPOSSESSED

As part of the relocation of our office to Brockley the task was to introduce ourselves to the local community and identify areas of need that could be met with our support. As such, we were successful in securing monies from the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund to deliver community cohesion projects and set upon a four-pronged approach to engagement.

Community Fun Day

The Community Fun Day was designed to introduce Elevating Success to the local community. We provided face-painting, a bouncy castle and a dance competition, while parents were introduced to our services and engaged in discussions about the local area and how it could be made a better place to live. We were pleased to see so many local people – with the free BBQ proving a real draw – with additional support provided by local organisations, and dignitaries (councillors) who attended to offer their support and meet our team.

Girls' Night In

This forum created a space for young females to come together and talk about issues that they face in a safe and welcoming environment. Topics are raised by the young people and facilitated by trained and experience tutors, who offer interactive presentations designed to spur productive and thought-provoking discussions.

The London Community Foundation

Families Together Forum

Here, at Elevating Success, we firmly believe that community solutions should come from those able to reap the benefits and as such the Families Together Forum sought to empower the I community. Local people of any age were invited to come together to discuss issue currently effecting their community and any solutions we could assist with. The parameters of this forum were wide and extended to such matters as parental support in making school applications.

Boys' Night In

Similar to the Girls' Night In project, but aimed at local young males. Topics were once again suggested by the young people,



Deptford Challenge Trust

Employability skills enhancing youngsters' careers





Deptford Challenge Trust funded us to deliver two programmes delivered over a six-month period to 20 individuals.

Statistics:

24 Attendees

The first of these was a Pathway to Work in Catering and Hospitality Programme, which engaged with 11 individuals, all of whom went on to achieve a Level 2 Qualification in Food Safety & Hygiene.

23 Accreditations

11 Catering Participants

The second programme was our accredited Pathway to Work in Construction Programme. Working with 13 individuals, 12 achieved a Level 1 Qualification in Health & Safety in a Construction Environment.

13 Construction Participants





CCHA School's Out Programme

L&Q Summer Programme

For the fifth consecutive year, we partnered with CCHA to deliver the School's Out Summer Holiday Programme.

While the programme is always successful, 2016 turned out the be the best yet with 38 young people attending three-weeks of trips which included visiting the O2 Arena, riding the Emirates Cable Car, and visiting Painshill Park.

While the young people are provided with lots of fun trips and activities, there was an added benefit highlighted by the quotes from parents below:

"My child is usually shy, but attending this programme has made her a lot more independent"

"My children have become more active and don't just want to sit indoors all day"

"My daughter now looks forward to socialising and meeting new people"

"My child has increased her confidence and she has interacted with others after becoming more outgoing" Elevating Success UK has an existing relationship with London & Quadrant stretching back almost nine years. However, 2016 marked the first time we had delivered a Holiday Programme in partnership with then.

Taking place in Rotherhithe, a new delivery area for us, we were to offer a three-week summer programme for young people.

To introduce ourselves to local residents we conducted in-depth outreach work, spoke to local parents, and distributed flyers and banners throughout the local community.

This proved highly successful and resulted in a high turnout of 46 young people. The programme consisted of onsite activities, workshops, and offsite trips.

Many of the young people were experiencing a programme, such as this, for the first time, and their satisfaction can be summed up by the comment below:

Jade said:

"I would love to do this summer programme again in the future. The cinema and bowling were the best trips I went on."







Programme Beneficiaries

During the 2016/17 financial year, Elevating Success UK ran 42 projects or programmes, working with 1,589 people.

Continuing our work in Bromley, Croydon and Lewisham, we also branched out into Rotherhithe for the first time.

From Employability Skills, to Driving Theory, Homework Clubs to gender-specific mentoring, Youth Conferences to Holiday Programmes, we delivered a variety of programmes to people ranging in age from seven -80.

We have continued to go from strength to strength this year, emphasised by the amount of individuals who accessed more than one of our programmes during the year.

No fewer than 328 individuals participated in more than one programme.

Programmes targeted at Young People aged 7-19

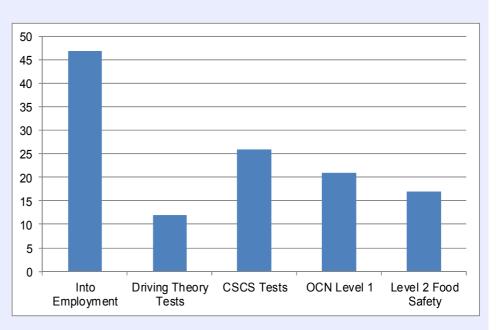
- · Girls' Night In
- Holiday Programmes
- Youth Forums

Programmes offering Employment access support

- High-5 Employability Skills
- On The Road: Driving Theory
- Pathway to Work in Catering & Hospitality
- Pathway to Work in Construction
- Business Enterprise

Events Management Offering

 Lewisham Youth Conference 2017



Our Outcomes for 2016/17

Case Studies

BW's Case Study:

When Ms. Bryan-Warner (BW) joined Elevating Success UK's Pathway to Work in Catering & Hospitality course in November 2016 she was eager to start a new chapter in her life. Unable to graduate following an accident that had left her convalescing for months she was now open to all options.

Six weeks into the programme and BW entered a work placement. There she gained first-hand experience in a 4-star hotel and her confidence was bolstered to the extent that she signed on with a recruitment agency specialising in hospitality. She gained experience in the cloakroom, at stadiums, as a Kitchen Assistant and in delivering Butterfly Service at high-end eateries and by March 2017 she had amassed three months' paid work.

However, her journey of exploration was not over. BW wanted to try her hand at care work and with Elevating Success UK's network of agency contacts she was signed up in no time. "I'm still trying", she says of her experience. "It's really rewarding – in terms of being there for someone"

Uncertain as to where her future lies she is confident that Elevating Success UK will be there to support her long after the course has ended.

Elevating Success has given me opportunities to work. They pressured me in the right way to keep me focused. Without their support, I wouldn't have achieved so much.

I love what I do and am determined to make it a success. Elevating Success has afforded me an opportunity to broaden my skills and prepare for selfemployment.

Nadine's Case Study:

Nadine embarked on the Mums In Business course in February 2017 with the clear ambition of gaining the necessary skills to be able to launch her own business one day. As a mum of four she knew the challenges of juggling family life - making it harder for her to take up and maintain full-time work. However, self-employment and events management, in particular, afforded her the ability to work flexibly from home.

After six weeks on Elevating Success UK's business course she had gained the basic knowledge to be able to launch a business. "I grew in so much confidence on the course and I met like-minded women, but I also felt I needed more events management experience." She gained that experience volunteering with Elevating Success UK; first managing the social media and artists' agent relationship for a youth conference event and latterly helping to organise holiday provision for five organisations across London. With a sterling performance on both counts she has been earmarked for a permanent position that comes on line in September 2017.

Watch this space!

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Without our funders and partners, the work we do would not be possible. We would like to offer a huge thanks to all of our partners over the past year and look forward to working with you all again

- AmicusHorizon
- Axis Foundation
- Awards For All
- Croydon BME Forum
- CCHA
- Clyde Early Childhood Centre
- Downderry Children's Centre
- Easy Fundraising
- Evening Standard
 Dispossessed Fund

- Family Mosaic
- Harris Academy: Purley
- In Kind Direct
- Jack Petchey Foundation
- JobCentre Plus
- Lewisham Council
- Lewisham Homes
- Local Giving
- London and Quadrant

- London Community
 Foundation
- London CRC
- Metropolitan Police
- NCS: The Challenge
- Seetec
- Youth First



Our Volunteers and Interns

Thank you to all of our team over the past 12 months, without whom we would not be able to continue to function at the level we do. Each and every volunteer is an important member of the Elevating Success UK family:

Amelie Lefevre
Angela Boakye
Daniel Nebiar
Diana Douglas-Brown
Julie Style
Millie Thompson
Nadine Banton
Nicole James
Paligue Yacoubian
Sandy Bryan
Wahida Said

Our Valued Trustees

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Devon Hobbs Treasurer

Andrea Beveney **Secretary**

John Opara
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Anne-Marie Nicholls **Trustee**

Angela Nelson **Board Member**

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Lewisham Youth Conference 2017

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